



McGregor W. Scott
United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

NEWS RELEASE

Sacramento
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100
Sacramento CA 95814
Tel (916) 554-2700
TTY (916) 554-2855

Fresno
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel (559) 497-4000
TTY (559) 497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 3, 2007

Contact: David Gappa, 559-497-4020

www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae

FORMER TULARE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY
PLEADS GUILTY TO RECEIVING IMAGES OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Agrees to Prison Term of 8 years Followed by 10 years of Supervised Release

FRESNO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that JOHN ALBERT SICKLER, 41, of Merced, California pleaded guilty before United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii to one count of receiving visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. He agreed to a prison sentence of 96 months followed by a term of supervised release of 120 months. He will be required to register as a sex offender as a result of his conviction.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, SICKLER admitted, as part of a plea agreement, that from approximately May 4, 2003 through September 11, 2005 he used a computer and modem to receive, by use of the internet, visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. The offense involved material depicting prepubescent minors as well as images of minors engaged in sadistic or masochistic conduct or other violence. The defendant admitted that he received and possessed more than 600 images of the sexual exploitation of minors on computer hard drives, compact discs, or other storage devices.

SICKLER was employed as a deputy with the Tulare County Sheriff's Department from 1995 until the time of his arrest on September 13, 2005. The arrest was the culmination of several investigations by numerous law enforcement agencies. The following agencies investigated the defendant's suspected purchases of child pornography from numerous web sites, by use of credit and debit cards, as well as his receipt of child pornography via a peer-to-peer file sharing program: United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices in Fresno, California, Newark, New Jersey, and Fairfax, Virginia; the Fresno County Sheriff's Department Computer Crimes Unit; the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department; and the Suffolk County (New York) Police Department. Representatives of the Visalia Police Department and the California Department of Justice assisted in arresting the defendant.

SICKLER will be sentenced on March 19, 2007, at 9:00 a.m, and he faces a prison term of between 5 and 20 years, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a possible lifetime term of supervised release. He was remanded into federal custody upon pleading guilty today.

###